



Media Day 2017



Media Day is the annual event hosted by the Department of Mass Communications at the University of West Georgia. The day presents opportunities for UWG students to learn from and network with professionals working in the communications industries at the panel discussion and networking sessions

media day

A Glance at Media Day

Kenya Foster

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The 36th annual Media Day at UWG will take place on March 8 in the Campus Center Ballroom. Media Day has become a great tool for Mass Communications majors to connect with employers in their field. It is an all day event that consists of different sections in order to provide the best day for UWG alumni, students, faculty and visitors to come together, learn and network.

“Media Day was established by Dr. Chester Gibson, emeritus professor to bring media and communications professionals to campus to network with current students,” said Dr. Bradford Yates, Mass Communications professor at UWG. The main purpose of Media Day is for students to be able to network with business professionals in order to possibly obtain internships and job opportunities. Although Mass Communications is an extensive major, it is a highly competitive field. Being able to attend an event to network with alumni and other business professionals helps students become aware of opportunities and get their foot in the door.

As the amount of Mass Communication majors rises, Media

Day has experienced a rise in attendance. “Student turnout typically eclipses 100 students,” said Dr. Yates. “And recently has been averaging about 120-125 students.” Media Day is a day for past UWG students to pay it forward to the school that molded them into the business professionals they have become.

Even though Media Day occurs in the Spring semester, discussions and meetings take place all school year. The faculty is on a rotating system for chair and co-chair. Each faculty member serves two years as co-chair then two-years as chair. This system is set up so every member can have the opportunity to take lead but planning for media day is a collaborative effort. This year, Professor Christopher Renaud is serving as the Chair and Dr. T. Randall Morris as co-chair.

The first event of Media Day is a panel discussion. Every year the panel discusses different topics that relate to Mass Communications. “The working title for the panel discussion is Turning Points,” said Renaud. “There are certain things that the panel discussion covers every year. Most essentially, there is a lot of advice for students about how to prepare for and how to comport themselves in their first media related jobs.”

The panelists change every year and consist of many different business professionals who represent every concentration of Mass Communications. This year, the

panel is; Shannon McCaffrey, Editor of Enterprise News Team at the Atlanta-Journal Constitution, Eugenia Johnson (PR Director for The Garner Circle PR), Allyssa A Lewis (Animator, Recruiter and Consultant), James Schiller Paul (Content Creator & Brand Strategist at Schiller Productions, Brigitte Mabry (Manager, Content Logistics at Turner Entertainment) and the Mediator J. Bruce Hildebrand (former print and radio Journalist).

Following the panel discussion is a networking session. “We really consider the networking session to be the most useful part of the day for students,” said Renaud. “Those happen in the atrium part of the student center. It is always nice to see students dressed and presenting themselves professionally to potential employers.” Many of the professionals are UWG alumni who had a great experience at Media Day seek to help students from their alma mater receive job opportunities. The other business professionals who are in attendance, were invited by the chair of Media Day. Some professionals enjoy the event so much that they attend every year.

Next, is the Honors luncheon and the keynote speaker. During this luncheon, everyone in attendance has a chance to listen to the Keynote speaker who, this year, is 1999 UWG alumni and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award Sheli-tha Hurd. Hurd is a two time Emmy Award Winner and News Producer

for WSB-TV. This luncheon was created to honor the outstanding Mass Communications students who go above and beyond in their field. “We have several categories of awards,” said Renaud. “The Excellence Awards are given to Mass Communications seniors who demonstrate outstanding academic development and professional development performance in their respected field. Each concentration will be honoring a student.” The recipients of the Excellence Awards are chosen by faculty after submitting an application.” The other awards that are presented are, The Distinguished Service Award, Gordon Watson Award, academic achievement award and Professional Development Award.

After the Alumni are done giving back for the day, the last event is the Alumni Social is at The Border, a local Mexican restaurant. It is an informal social event for the working professionals. “Media day is not just an event for working professionals to pay it forward to students,” said Renaud. “It is also a community event for those alumni who have very busy schedules and don’t get the chance to spend time together.”

The faculty in charge of Media Day hope that students leave the event with a good sense of how it is to work in Mass Communications and meet people who can help them further their career.

“We want students to leave with a sense of purpose, inspiration and possibility,” concluded Renaud.

UWG alumnus to serve as Media Day panel moderator

Nikole Gianopoulos

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UWG graduate of 1973 and former editor-in-chief of The West Georgian, Bruce Hildebrand, is set to moderate the Media Day 2017 panel discussion. Hildebrand became editor-in-chief of The West Georgian in 1971 during a period of controversy and utilized his experience as the news editor of the *Alpharetta Neighbor* and the *Roswell Neighbor* newspapers to help fulfill his role.

The Media Day event panel moderated by Hildebrand will provide students the opportunity to hear what it is like to work in different facets of communications. The panel will consist of one professional to reflect each of the Mass Communications Department’s four concentrations, plus a fifth “wildcard” to discuss the convergence of journalism, public relations, digital media and telecommunications, film and video production.

Hildebrand is likely to give students a few words of advice on the big day, as well. His wide range of experiences across multiple media platforms, including radio news, magazine editor, and political, corporate and governmental relations, will provide students looking for internships or those who are entering into job search with substantial career advice.

“Media Day will enable stu-

dents to focus on internships or whatever they may be involved with by getting them to critically think about their area of expertise,” said Hildebrand. “This day provides students with a place to learn what employers are looking for and to further explore their area of study.”

While editor-in-chief of The West Georgian, Hildebrand was awarded the first Stanley Parkman Scholarship for journalism in honor of the founder and publisher of Carrollton’s *Times-Free Press*. The scholarship recognized his successful efforts to manage the quality of the paper, make it more sensitive to the issues of the campus and expand the range of editorial content.

With each edition of The West Georgian Hildebrand said he sought to better discern the real news and to motivate the staff to produce newsworthy content while meeting deadlines.

“Working at newspapers taught me how to meet deadlines,” Hildebrand said. “I also learned organizational skills and how to work with others, including university administrators.”

Hildebrand advises the current and future editor-in-chiefs to identify the capabilities of each one of their staff members. Each staff member possesses different skills, “One person may be good at headline writing or layout while another person may be a great copy editor,” he said. According to Hildebrand, “being able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of yourself and those you work with is crucial to running a college newspaper or any other organization.”

er organization.”

The former editor continuously emphasized the most useful skill for a journalist to have; writing. While serving as a senior vice president at Hill and Knowlton International Public Relations for six years, Hildebrand required interviewees, even from the most prestigious universities, to complete an 8th grade grammar test. He noted that an “amazing number” would fail the test and be dropped from the interview list.

“If you are not a skilled writer, employers will not be able to use you,” said Hildebrand. “Employers are looking to hire media professionals who can truly write – who know what the lead is and who know how to prioritize and synthesize information.”

Hildebrand also stressed the importance of students finding their niche and working towards their goals in order to become successful journalists and communicators.

“Presenting yourself in the best way possible is vital,” said Hildebrand. “You have to understand where you want to go, how you present yourself to the interviewer and what specific skill sets you need for the position you’re interviewing for.”

At the time of his retirement, Hildebrand was the Executive Di-



Photo Credit: Stephen Voss

rector for Higher Education for the Association of American Publishers (AAP) – the national trade association of the U.S. publishing industry. The firms he represented published 92 percent of the course materials used in America’s post-secondary, law and medical schools.

He is also a former print and radio journalist who was active in campaign politics from 1972 until 1985 and served in Washington under the administrations of three presidents. In addition, for 10 years Hildebrand served as the president and CEO of an international consulting and development firm operating in conflict and war zones.

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media day

Eugenia Johnson-A UWG Graduate and PR Panelist 2017

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Starting off as a contributing writer for The West Georgian, Eugenia Johnson has come a long way since graduating from the University of West Georgia in 2010. As a student attending Media Day only a few years ago, Johnson is returning to UWG seven years later, but this time as the Media Day PR Panelist.

As PR Director of The Garner Circle PR, Johnson has accomplished publicity and marketing campaigns for a variety of lifestyle, entertainment and beauty brands including hair care powerhouse Strength of Nature Global, FOX, NBC Universal, Hyundai and more.

The Garner Circle PR sets itself apart from normal publicist. It achieves the qualities of a great publicist by building genuine relationships with its clients.

"Public Relations is ironically all about relationships," said Johnson. "You are only as successful as the relationships you keep. Maintaining professionalism, providing excellent client service, developing media relationships are all characteristics that set apart a publicist from a great publicist."

As PR Director of The Garner Circle PR, Johnson holds a great deal of responsibility by overseeing all details of the agency's projects.

"It is a lot of project management and keeping the team on track to meet the big picture goals without losing the small details in between," said Johnson.

Johnson's position with The Garner Circle PR has given her many opportunities to work with major networks such as: FOX, NBC Universal, and many more. The agency secured media placements for show premiers and helped sustain attentiveness throughout the shows' seasons.

"With the networks, I have worked on a few of their reality TV concepts like Empire, Power, and Preachers of Detroit and Atlanta," said Johnson. "Our agency conceptualized campaign strategies to secure media placements for show premiers and maintain interest throughout the season."

Much of Johnson's success has come from internships. Johnson's internships allowed her to discover her strengths and weaknesses. Johnson was able to have the opportunity to land a full time position from one of her internships.

"Internships help give you a better understanding of what it is you really want to pursue while gaining the experience to actually accomplish it," said Johnson. "I had the

opportunity to have four internships and they all helped me to discover what I liked, what I was good at and what I wasn't. I was fortunate that one actually led to a full time position."

Because of Johnson's experience throughout her profession, she has acquired a great deal of advice to pass along to college students who are entering the job searching process.

"Schedule information interviews and really research job descriptions to match your experience to what the company is looking for," said Johnson. "When you know the company's challenges you will always know how you can become an asset."

Through her time at UWG, Johnson still uses the tactics and knowledge she learned from her

course, PR Campaigns, throughout her career in Public Relations.

"One of my favorite courses was PR Campaigns with Dr. Amber Smallwood," said Johnson. "The course integrated PR theory with practical application in the field. We were assigned to complete campaign proposals, press releases and had the chance to simulate a press conference, which are tactics I have executed in the real world."

As the PR Panelist for Media Day 2017, Johnson can relate to the students who will be in attendance as she was a student at UWG a few years ago.

"It wasn't too long ago I was attending Media Day as a student," said Johnson. "I am humbled and grateful I can give back to the University in this way and really have a chance to impact the students."



Photo courtesy of Eugenia Johnson

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36TH ANNUAL

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Department of Mass Communications

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Campus Center Ballroom

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient:

Shelitha Hurd '99

WSB-TV's News Producer

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Panel Discussion
10:45 a.m.	Networking Session
12:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker & Honors Luncheon
2:30 p.m.	Alumni Social at The Border

Event is free and open to students.

Honors Luncheon Registration: <http://goo.gl/zzB2H4>

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www.westga.edu/mediaday

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media day

A Wolf for Life

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Media Day is a rewarding day for communication students at UWG. On March 8, outstanding senior Nikole Gianopoulos will be receiving the Department of Mass Communications’ Award of Excellence in Convergence Journalism and the most prestigious award of the day the Gordon R. Watson Award.

It is a huge honor to receive an award on Media Day and to receive two awards is an even higher honor. These awards highlight the best of the best in the Mass Communications department and is a chance to acknowledge the hard working and diligent students who go above and beyond. “There was great competition and many others who work hard and are so talented at what they do. So, to be selected among my peers makes me feel really honored and grateful,” said Gianopoulos.

Gianopoulos graduated from Pebblebrook High School and began her college journey four years ago, after choosing UWG out of several institutions. “I’m a daddy’s girl-family is really important to me and this school was closer to home,” said Gianopoulos. That was a big factor in choosing UWG but she believes it was by far the best choice. “This school has molded me into who I am, it has given me so many opportunities I am thankful for. It has really prepared me for the next step in my academic journey,” said Gianopoulos. She has worked in many areas during her time on campus. She has

worked at The WOLF Internet Radio as their media relations coordinator, a student assistant for University Communications and Marketing and News Editor at The West Georgian. Gianopoulos is also a Resident Assistant for honors living learning community and a university ambassador. Gianopoulos likes to stay busy while being able to network and connect with other people.

When Gianopoulos first started college she knew she wanted to be a journalist. She has a passion for writing and wanted to turn that passion into a career. But as many students can relate her passion began to shift during her sophomore year. While Gianopoulos will still have a hobby for writing she has chosen a new career path, a path into higher education administration. “I’ve had so many wonderful mentors while in college and have met so many people that have helped shaped my journey that I want to give that back to future students,” said Gianopoulos. After graduation, the next step is graduate school. While she is keeping her top school a secret, Gianopoulos has already been accepted graduate programs at UWG, Clemson University, The University of Tennessee, and Auburn University. After graduate school, she has even bigger plans. “I definitely want to end up at a university somewhere helping students, eventually be enrolled in a PhD program. Maybe even one day go into teaching,” expressed Gianopoulos. “I always want to work in the university realm but maybe in different capacities at different times.”

As a soon to be college graduate, Gianopoulos does not want to leave without giving words of advice to those coming up behind her. She stresses the importance of college,

and the importance of making your time count. “When you take a class, it is so vital to not just go through the class for the grade, but actually take in what they are teaching, absorb it and apply it to what you are doing,” said Gianopoulos. “Put value behind your degree and connect with as many people as you can.” She also has advice for those who will be graduating with her. “Trust your journey and know that whatever is meant to be will be,” said Gianopoulos.

As she receives her awards on Media Day and walks across the stage in May there are a few people

she wants to make sure know how vital they have been to her college experience. “Thank you to the UWG Mass Communications department. There are so many professors that have helped me get to this point like Dr. Sewell, Dr. Cole, Dr. Morris, and Dr. Yates. They have inspired me and have challenged me to go outside my comfort zone. What I’m most thankful for is that they taught me to be confident in myself and the work I produce. I am grateful and honored to be recognized on this day. Go West Go Wolves, I will always be a wolf for life,” said Gianopoulos.



Photo Courtesy of Nikole Gianopoulos

PRSSA Is Preparing Students for a Successful Future

Ashley Buckner
Guest Writer

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) at the University of West Georgia has taken part in numerous events and conferences to give students exposure to real world workplace environments.

PRSA-Georgia (Georgia Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America) is a professional sponsor in Atlanta, allowing students the opportunity to attend an annual event known as Shadow Day with Cox Media on Feb. 23, 201. This event gives students a chance to shadow professionals who work in public relations and media.

At Shadow Day students are able to converse with these professionals while gaining insight to a true day in the life of public relations professionals. Students were able to ask questions and learn more about Cox Media’s internal and external operations.

PRSSA prides itself on allowing students to enhance their education, broaden their network and launch their careers. Co-advisors, Dr. Hazel Cole and Dr. T. Randahl Morris have continued to grow the organization to benefit their students.

“My favorite thing about advising PRSSA is the opportunity to grow student leaders and expose them to companies and organizations that understand the importance of strategic public relations,” said Dr. Cole, Mass Communications professor. “It makes me proud to see them step into an industry that I love.”

“Shadow Day was great because we got to speak to someone from basically every industry in public relations,” said Sierra Lemelle, a junior public relations student and participant in Shadow Day. “There were so few of us

there that it allowed us more time to talk to them and really get their undivided attention.”

A group of 10 public relations students from UWG attended the 2017 Real World PR Conference in Atlanta on Feb. 24, 2017. This specific conference has around 200 attendees and offers multiple workshops for students to attend.


The Real World Conference allowed students to compare resumes and receive feedback from professionals, discuss internship opportunities and engage in activities with professionals from companies like Delta Airlines, The Coca-Cola Company and public relations firms like FleishmanHillard.

“The Real World PR Conference was on a whole different level. There were PRSSA chapters from all over and professionals from different companies like Cox Enterprises and Turner Broadcasting,” said Lemelle. “It was a little intimidating but I learned so much.”

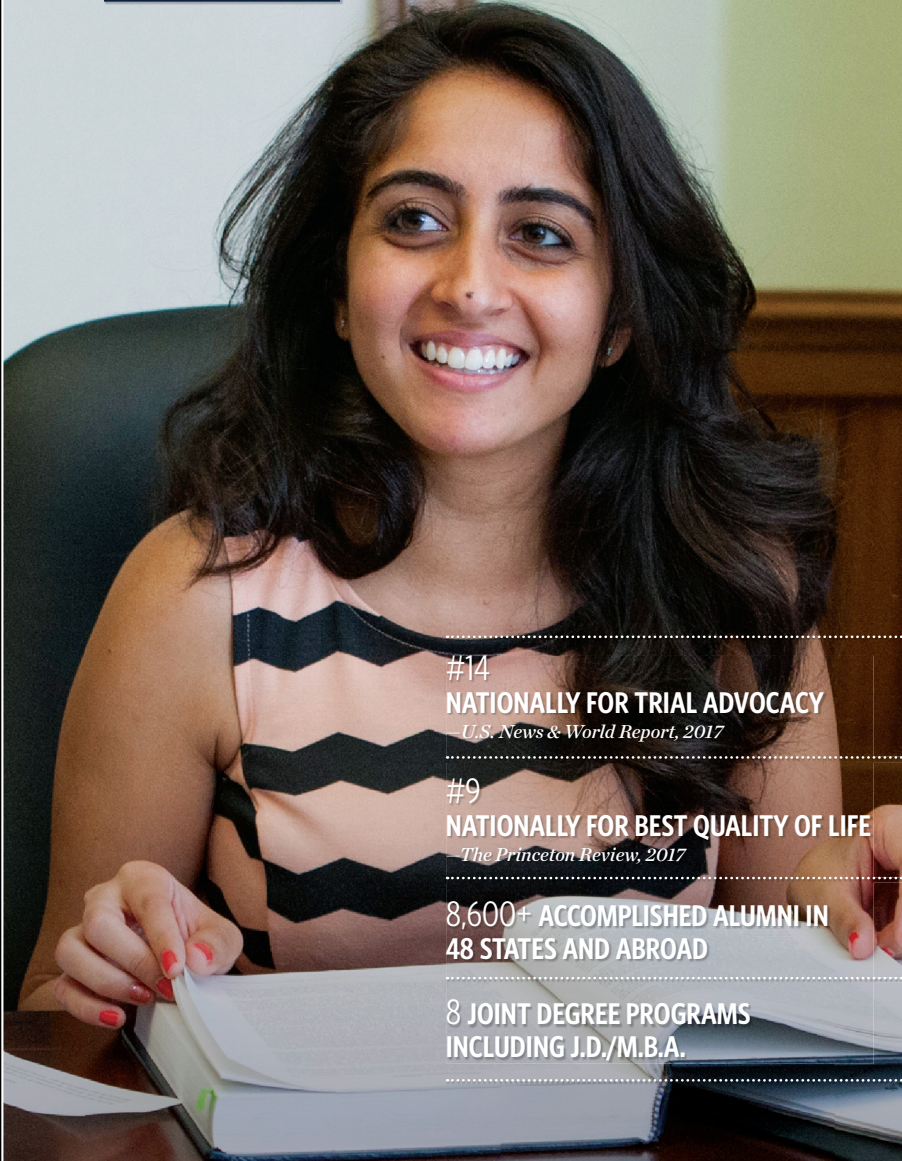
Shadow day sparked a passion in Lemelle for global communications. She also learned about the intense competition she will face as she progresses towards her career.

“PRSSA offers opportunity. I believe that PRSSA positively impacts students through mentoring, leadership and professional growth and development,” said Dr. Cole. “Many of our members have landed internships and started their careers because of PRSSA. That means success.”

Any students interested in getting involved with PRSSA are encouraged to contact Dr. Hazel Cole at hcole@westga.edu or Dr. T Randahl Morris at trmorris@westga.edu.



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NBS-AERho

Reagan Biddy

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The National Broadcasting Society-University of West Georgia chapter (NBS-UWG) has recently played a major role in preparing students for the 36th annual Media Day by hosting a professional workshop series for students interested in being successful and prepared for Media Day 2017. The National Broadcasting Society- Alpha Epsilon Rho, The National Electronic Media Association (NBS-AERho) is a student and professional society, including over 85 chapters on college campuses. NBS-AERho aids in the professional development of students pursuing careers within electronic media industries. AERho is the honors society within the larger society of NBS. There are a few select members of the NBS-UWG chapter that are also in the AERho honors society.

The first workshop of the professional development series hosted by NBS-UWG was focused on business cards and resumes. The next workshop was about networking 101 and to how greet a professional, keep the conversation flowing and following up with someone. The last workshop of the series was titled 'Dress for Success' and focused on what to wear for Media Day that will leave a good impression on the business professionals and alumni who are visiting.

"Those workshops were sponsored by NBS-UWG as a way to help prepare students for

Media Day 2017," said Professor Bradford Yates, faculty advisor of NBS-UWG. "But also for those few who are able to go to the NBS-AERho National Convention in New York City during spring break." At the National Convention in NYC, members of NBS-UWG will have the opportunity to network with many business professionals within the electronic media industry over the span of four days, as well as learn valuable information.

"Media day puts an adrenaline jolt into NBS members, PRSSA members and other just mass communications majors, minors and perhaps undecided students," said Yates. "They are excited because someone will be here from Fox 5, WSB and many of these folks that come back are alumni who have sat in the same seats. This is a reunion for them to see their friends, professors and meet the new budding professionals.

"NBS is really excited every year to be part of helping support media day wherever it can," said Yates. "Whether it's officially or doing something just because we know it is important for the students and to support the department. "

Yates did aide in the instillation of NBS-AERho on the University of West Georgia's campus. Although, before NBS-UWG was here, Yates and his previous students founded the Mass Communications Society (MCS) in 2006 at UWG. MCS was the top student organization on campus before transitioning into NBS-AERho-UWG.

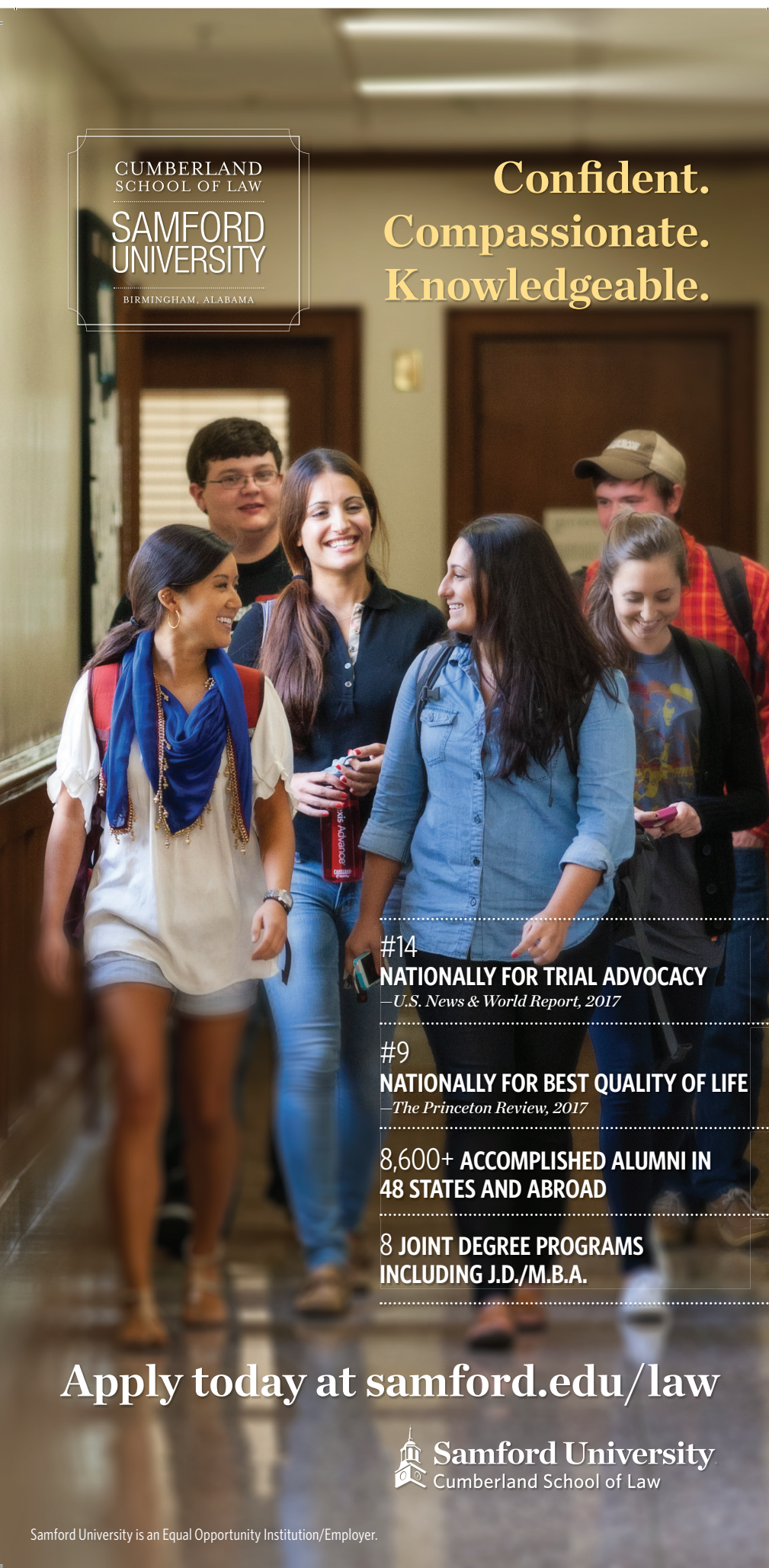
"In many respects 2006 helped in creating the foundation that evolved into PRSSA and NBS which are nationally affiliated societies," said Yates. "The student film makers club is also another arm that grew out from MCS."

The University of West Georgia's NBS chapter was founded in 2012 and is highly decorated with many awards and recognized nationally. NBS-UWG is currently the reigning chapter of the year for NBS-AERho and has won consecutively the past two years on a national level. NBS-UWG is also active with community service projects around the Carrollton area.

This year NBS-UWG has toured iHeart-Media and Cox Media, which includes WSB radio and television. The chapter also had the opportunity to visit Pinewood Studios two times and CNN. NBS-UWG has many connections to each of these groups and studios because there are alumni who work within the companies, and have helped the chapter to schedule tours and meet different professionals within this field. These experiences give the members of NBS-UWG great opportunities to make connections and network with real professionals in their desired field of work.

NBS-UWG is extremely student driven. Yates said that he does have to do different administrative tasks for the chapter, but it is student leaders in the mass communications department who recognize what this society can do for them, and see the chapter and national dues as an investment in their future, that truly succeed and use NBS-UWG as an aide in their professional careers.

"The most rewarding thing is the connections, skills, and knowledge about every industry that you learn from the panel discussions, tours, workshops, and especially attending the National Convention," said Sierra Lemelle, NBS-UWG president and UWG student.



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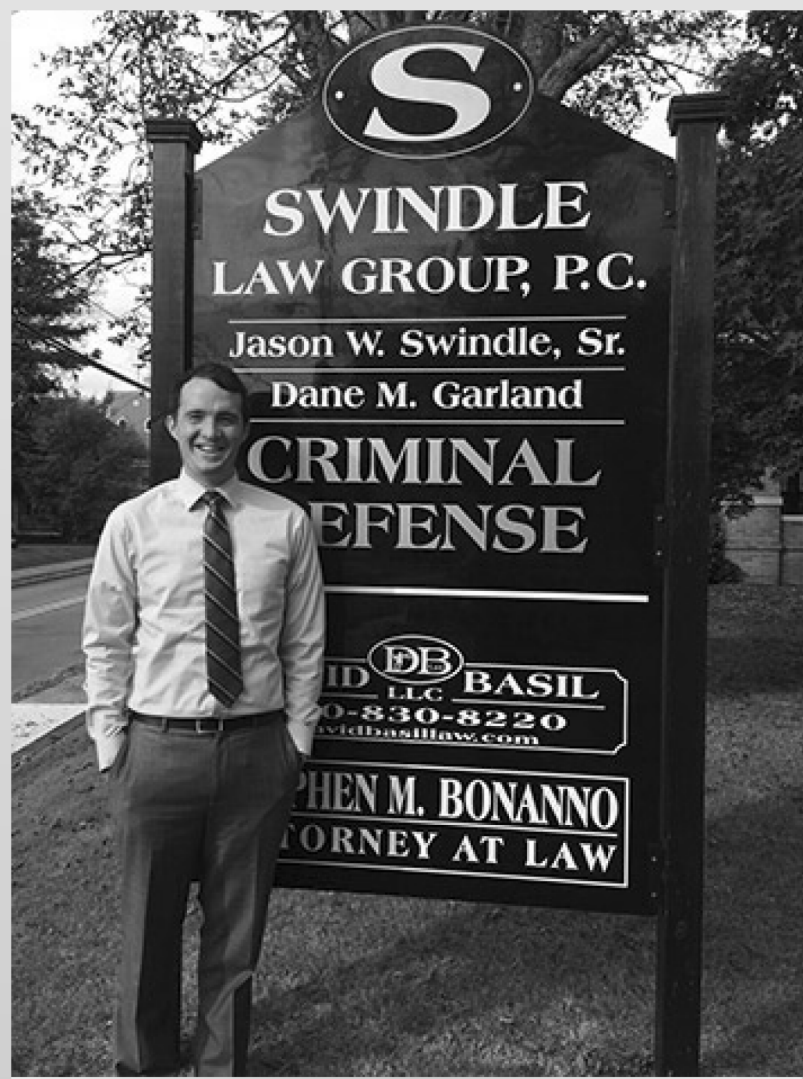
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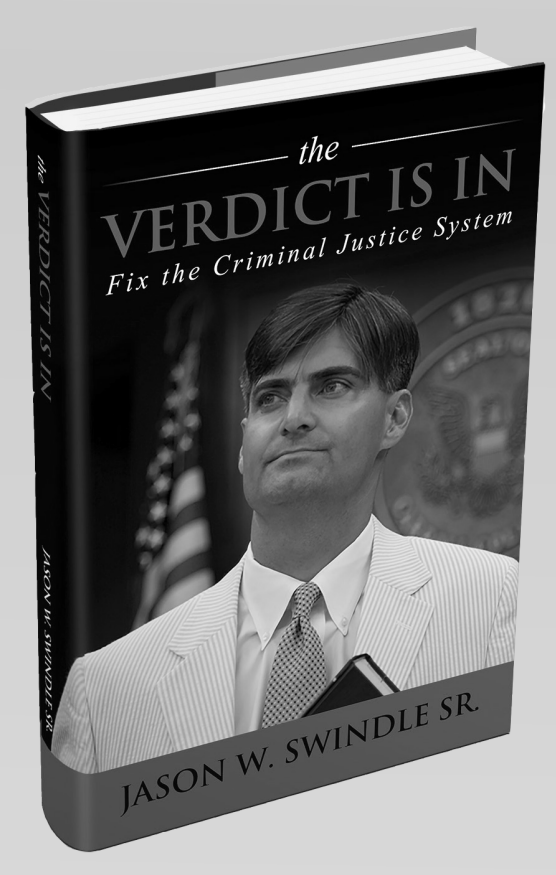
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Shannon McCaffrey: the road less Traveled

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Shannon McCaffrey's road to journalism was not the road traveled by the typical budding journalist. The former Literature major stumbled into journalism, found her niche and ran with it ever since. Her experiences give her an outlook on the industry that many people do not get to experience.

While she was an undergraduate student at Colgate University, she appeared to be headed down a different career field than the one she finds herself in. "I had an idea that I wanted to go to Law school, so I took a year off and moved back to my hometown of Newburgh, New York," Said McCaffrey. "I got a part time freelance job at the local newspaper, and I found I really liked it. Pretty soon I got pulled on full time, and law school obviously never happened."

Working as a journalist for over two decades, McCaffrey has covered a vast array of beats across the United States and has a particular love for political and campaign reporting. Her body of work includes work done for The Associated Press, the Washington bureau of Knight Ridder

Press, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, etc.

McCaffrey's road to journalism is almost unfeasible in today's industry. The job market is so competitive for so few jobs; it is almost imperative that aspiring journalists get involved with his or her school's media programs. "The best thing that I can say to somebody who wants to go into journalism, is to do journalism," Said McCaffrey. "Of course it is important to study journalism, but I think it is even more vital to a journalists career that they actually work on their trade."

According to McCaffrey, there are two main goals that make a journalist successful: perseverance and flexibility "and a sense of humor," McCaffrey chuckled.

With the industry so cut throat, it is important for young journalists to not get discouraged. Not every story will be front-page material, nor will it be easy to get reliable sources or good stories.

With how much the landscape of the industry is changing, being flexible is another crucial key to being a successful journalist. Unfortunately, not all journalists get to cover what they want all the time. They cover certain things simply to keep their job. "The days of covering one single beat are a thing of the past unfortunately," said McCaffrey. "Journalists need to be more generalized and be able to cover a wider variety of topics to get assignments."

The culmination of McCaffrey's work has led her to become the Assistant Senior Editor for

Enterprise News at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She encourages students to keep endeavoring in the field because even though the newsprint industry may be coming to an end, journalism is very much alive today.



Photo Courtesy of Shannon McCaffrey

The WOLF Internet Radio Shakes up Media Day 2017

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The WOLF Internet Radio has been at the University of West Georgia for many years and plays an important role in broadcasting and advertising the annual Media Day. The WOLF Internet Radio is an experiential radio studio put on by the Mass Communications department and is open for students from all majors to participate. It also serves and runs as a fully functional radio station to help prepare students who are involved in how a professional radio station would operate.

One particular time that The WOLF alumni like to tune in, as well many others in the area, is for the annual Media Day which takes place

on Mar. 8 in the Campus Center Ballroom. The WOLF is completely run and operated by students, hence their slogan, "for students, by students." Students who do not even have experience in radio production can participate in WIT, or WOLF in Training. This is a training program that gives students the necessary knowledge to be an active member of The WOLF Internet Radio Team.

"It is a full semester long program," said Shawn Isaacs, General Manager of The WOLF. "We teach students different radio operations from editing to how to put together a fully produced podcast, which we put on our website and students get the chance to take that podcast and put that on air."

The WOLF Internet Radio plays an active role in broadcasting the events taking place during Media Day for those who cannot be there for the actual festivities. Such events are the Panel Discussion, the Keynote Speaker, and the Lun-

cheon Presentation. The WOLF also takes Media Day as an opportunity to show current students what they are all about and answer any questions that they may have. The WOLF has won numerous awards, many of which are showcased in the Anthropology Building on campus. Some of these awards include the Best on Air Programming Award for the 2012 College Radio Day in which they beat out 500 other college radio programs.

"This year we are nominated for 10 intercollegiate broadcasting systems awards in various different categories, one of the top ones being the best online streaming station in the nation for a school greater than 10 thousand," said Isaacs.

The WOLF has had a big impact on UWG and the surrounding West Georgia area. Students have come out of The WOLF Internet Radio with very successful radio careers from local Atlanta based radio stations, as well as other radio sta-

tions nationwide. Even though their radio careers may take them to various places, many alumni like to tune back into The WOLF and see how it's progressing in providing UWG and the surrounding area with quality radio programming.

"It is a way that we can show our returning alumni and the students that visit, who we are, what we do and show our setup and how we are involved with what goes on on campus, especially Media Day," said Isaacs.

The WOLF Internet Radio is an opportunity to inform UWG students about what is happening on campus and in the surrounding Carrollton Community. It serves as a medium to help with the annual Media Day in broadcasting the festivities happening for those who cannot make it but still want to be involved and informed on what is occurring on March 8. The WOLF hopes to play a large role in Media Day this year, and many years to come.

news

Honoring the Life of Marquis House

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A candlelight vigil was held in honor of Marquis House, UWG sophomore, Thursday, Feb. 24 at 6 P.M. in Love Valley. House passed away Feb. 12 in the University Suites. The 19 year-old's life was cut short due to health complications stemming from type 1 diabetes. The vigil was a collaborative effort

between the on-campus organization B.E.S.T (Black Men Encouraging Success Today), which House was a member of, and Housing & Residence Life.

Close friends, fellow members of B.E.S.T. and other students expressed their grief, shared feelings, words of encouragements and their favorite memories of Marquis. In addition to students, Cheryl Thomas Hill, coordinator of the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) and B.E.S.T advisor, spoke as well as an on-campus pastor.

"Marquis and I's

relationship was like a little brother and big brother," said Corey Thorton, friend and fellow B.E.S.T member. Thorton met House his freshman year, through their cohort, AAMI, where the two cultivated their friendship. "If you talk to anybody [about Marquis] the first word they're gonna tell you is goofy. He was funny and really playful, in addition to that he was incredibly smart at the same time," said Thorton.

"He was a very funny and goofy, he was also a very giving person," said Chris Foster, friend and for-

mer B.E.S.T member. "We used to talk about campus, and how we can make it better, and we can make ourselves better. He always preserved. Even though he had type 1 diabetes he always kept going. He never let it stop him. It was almost like he was a superhuman, he kept going," said Foster.

Marquis House was a beacon of light to those that knew and loved him. The members of B.E.S.T. continue to cherish his memory and uphold the legacy of their dear friend. House was laid to rest Friday, Feb. 25 in Columbus, Georgia.

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